

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 06923

STATE FOR EUR/RPM; DEFENSE FOR SPASSTSECDEF/NATO, ASD/ISA
AND ASD/C3I

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AORG, MARR, MPOL
SUBJECT: LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES: DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COM-
MUNICATIONS.

REF: STATE 171853 DTG 071952Z JUL 78

1. WE SHARE WASHINGTON'S CONCERN THAT THERE NOT BE A VOID
IN LEADERSHIP IN THE IMPORTANT C3 PROGRAM (REFTEL). ON
THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE MACBRIEN POST NOT
BE FILLED BEFORE THERE IS AGREEMENT ON AN ASYG FOR LOGIS-
TICS, SO AS NOT TO PREJUDICE GETTING THAT AGREEMENT.

2. BASICALLY, WHAT WE FACE IS A TIMING PROBLEM. WE UNDER-
STAND INFORMALLY THAT LUNS' REPORT WILL BE CIRCULATED AFTER
HIS DEPARTURE ON LEAVE JULY 21 BUT BEFORE JULY 31, POSSIBLY
AS EARLY AS JULY 24, AND THAT THE REPORT WILL RECOMMEND
CONVERTING THE MACBRIEN POST TO THAT OF ASYG FOR LOGISTICS.
HOWEVER, PERMREPS WOULD NOT ADDRESS THE REPORT UNTIL MID-
SEPTEMBER AT THE EARLIEST, AFTER THE AUGUST HIATUS.
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SECURING AGREEMENT ON AN ASYG, MAKING THE APPOINTMENT, AND
GETTING THE INDIVIDUAL ON BOARD MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME.
MEANWHILE, MACBRIEN WOULD HAVE DEPARTED, AS SCHEDULED,
TOWARD END AUGUST.

3. FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENTS DESIGNED TO TEST THE WATER
ON CURRENT PLANS FOR THE MACBRIEN REPLACEMENT, ASD/C3I

DINNEEN DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND PROPOSED THAT ONE WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO PERSUADE LUNS TO EXTEND MACBRIEN FOR ABOUT 4 MONTHS, UNTIL THE DECEMBER 1978 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN C3 FORWARD MOMENTUM WHILE GAINING TIME TO BUILD ALLIANCE SUPPORT FOR THE ASYG (LOGISTICS) PROPOSAL. FURTHER, THIS ACTION WOULD PROVIDE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY WITHIN THE IS, HOPEFULLY DAMPEN POTENTIAL FOR INFIGHTING, AND FACILITATE THE TRANSITION ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE ON THE ASYG (LOGISTICS). WE HAVE HEARD THAT MACBRIEN WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO AN EXTENSION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT LUNS PLANS TO PRESENT THE BROAD OUTLINES OF HIS REPORT AT THE PERMREPS' LUNCH THIS COMING TUESDAY, JULY 18. PRIOR TO THE LUNCH, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY TRY HIS IDEAS OUT ON THE AMBASSADOR TO GET HIS PERSONAL REACTION BEFORE THROWING THEM OUT TO THE OTHER PERMREPS. IN THIS CONTEXT, AND GIVEN THE CONSIDERATIONS OF TIMING, WE SUPPORT DR. DINNEEN'S PROPOSAL. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD, WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, PLAN TO RAISE THE IDEA OF THE MACBRIEN EXTENSION WITH LUNS AT THAT TIME, AND IN ANY CASE IN ADVANCE OF THE PERMREPS' LUNCH. BENNETT

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